

FIG. 1

9

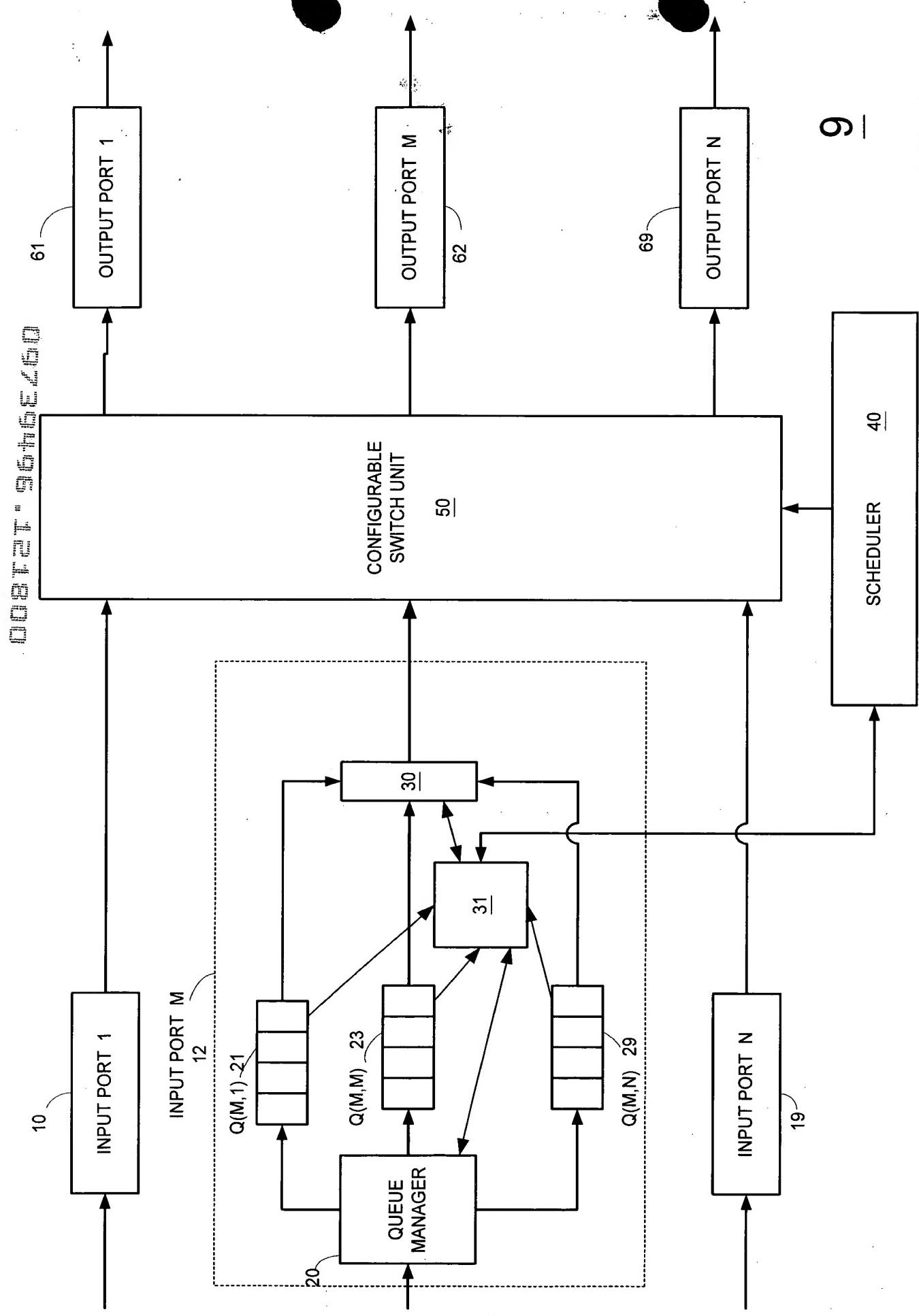
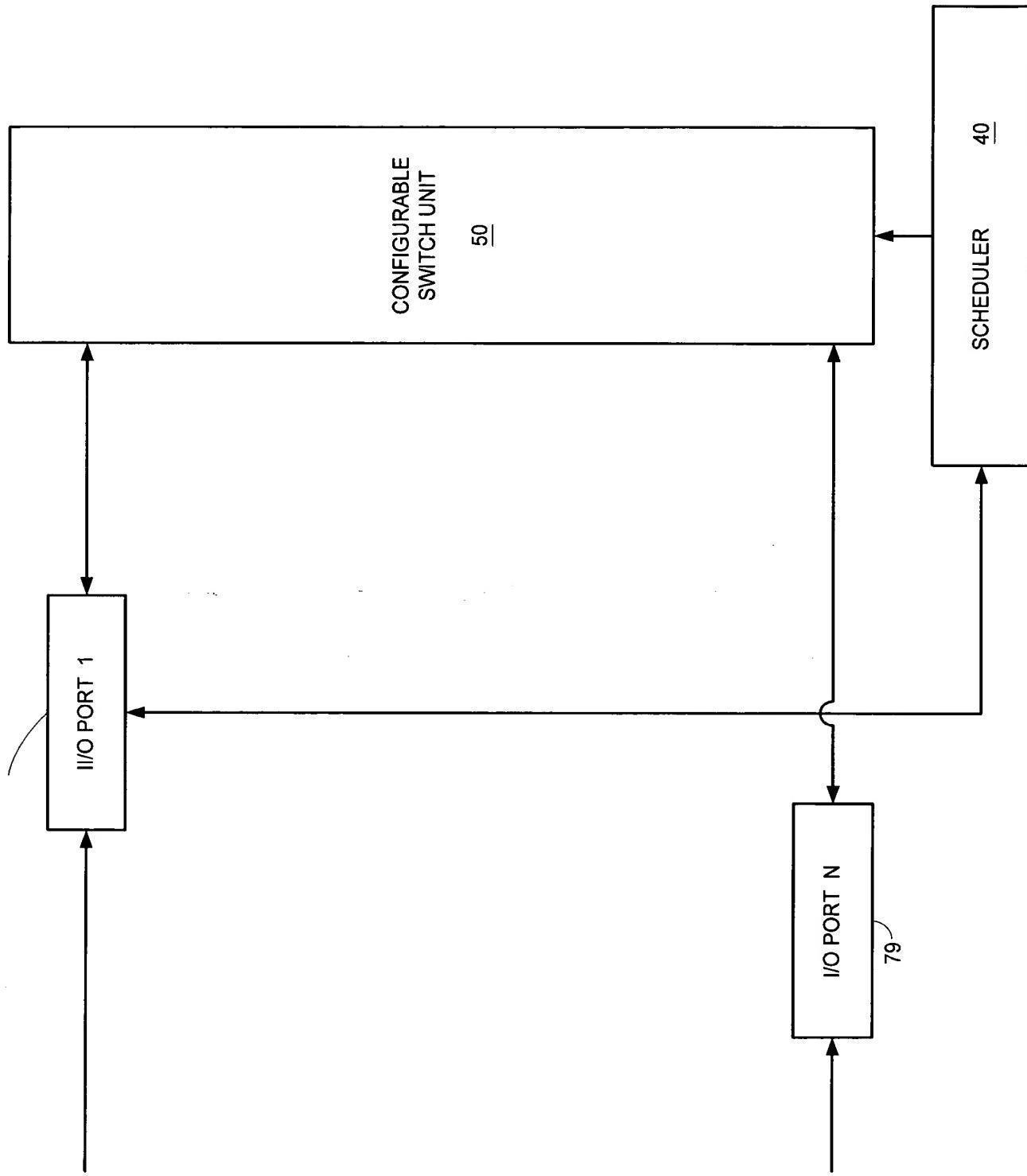


FIG. 2

9



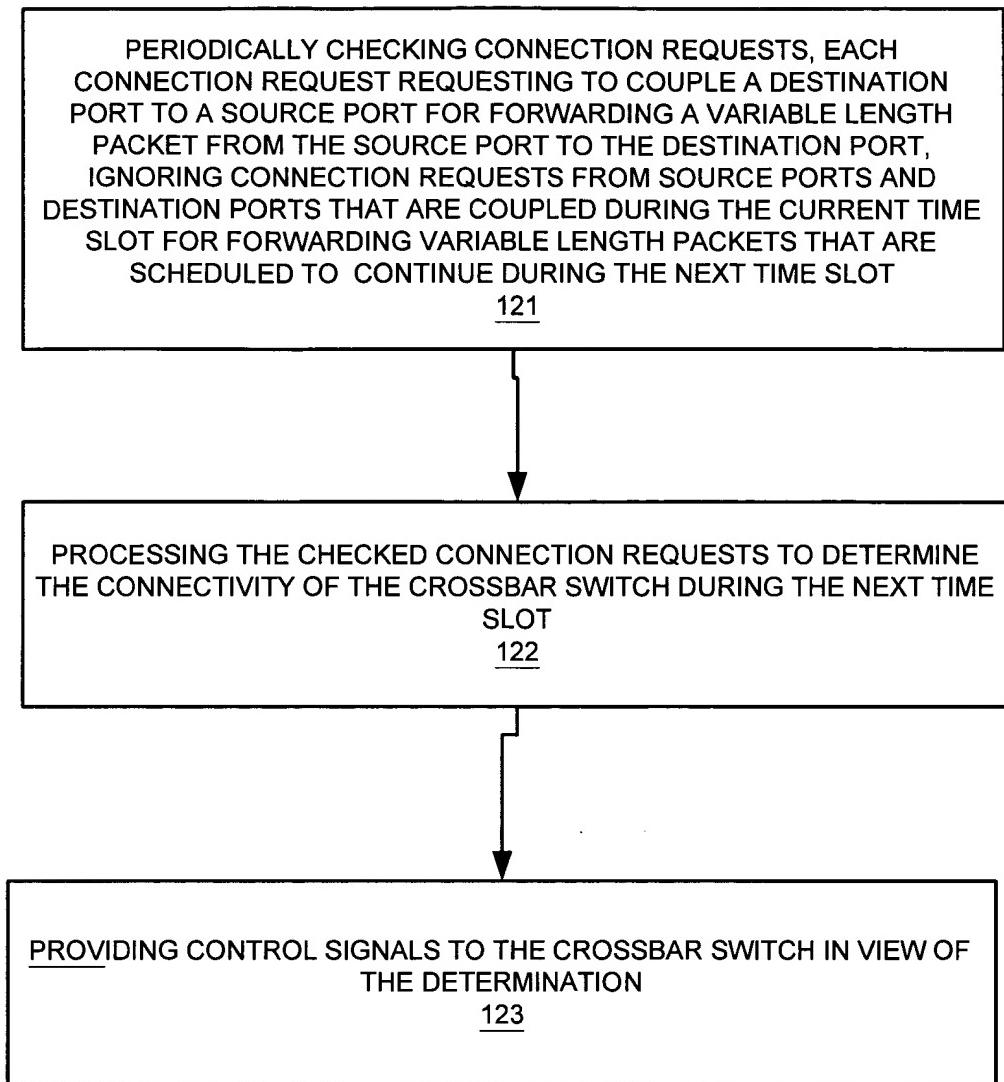
CHECKING, AT EACH TIME SLOT, FORWARDING REQUESTS TO FORWARD VARIABLE LENGTH PACKETS FROM SOURCE PORTS TO DESTINATION PORTS OF THE MULTIPOINT SWITCH, IGNORING FORWARDING REQUESTS FROM SOURCE PORTS AND DESTINATION PORTS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED TO FORWARD AND RECEIVE ACCORDINGLY AT LEAST PORTIONS OF VARIABLE LENGTH PACKETS DURING THE NEXT TIME SLOT 111

SELECTING SELECTED FORWARDING REQUESTS OUT OF THE CHECKED FORWARDING REQUESTS  
112

CONFIGURING THE MULTIPOINT SWITCH FOR ALLOWING TO SERVICE THE SELECTED FORWARDING REQUESTS DURING THE NEXT TIME SLOT  
113

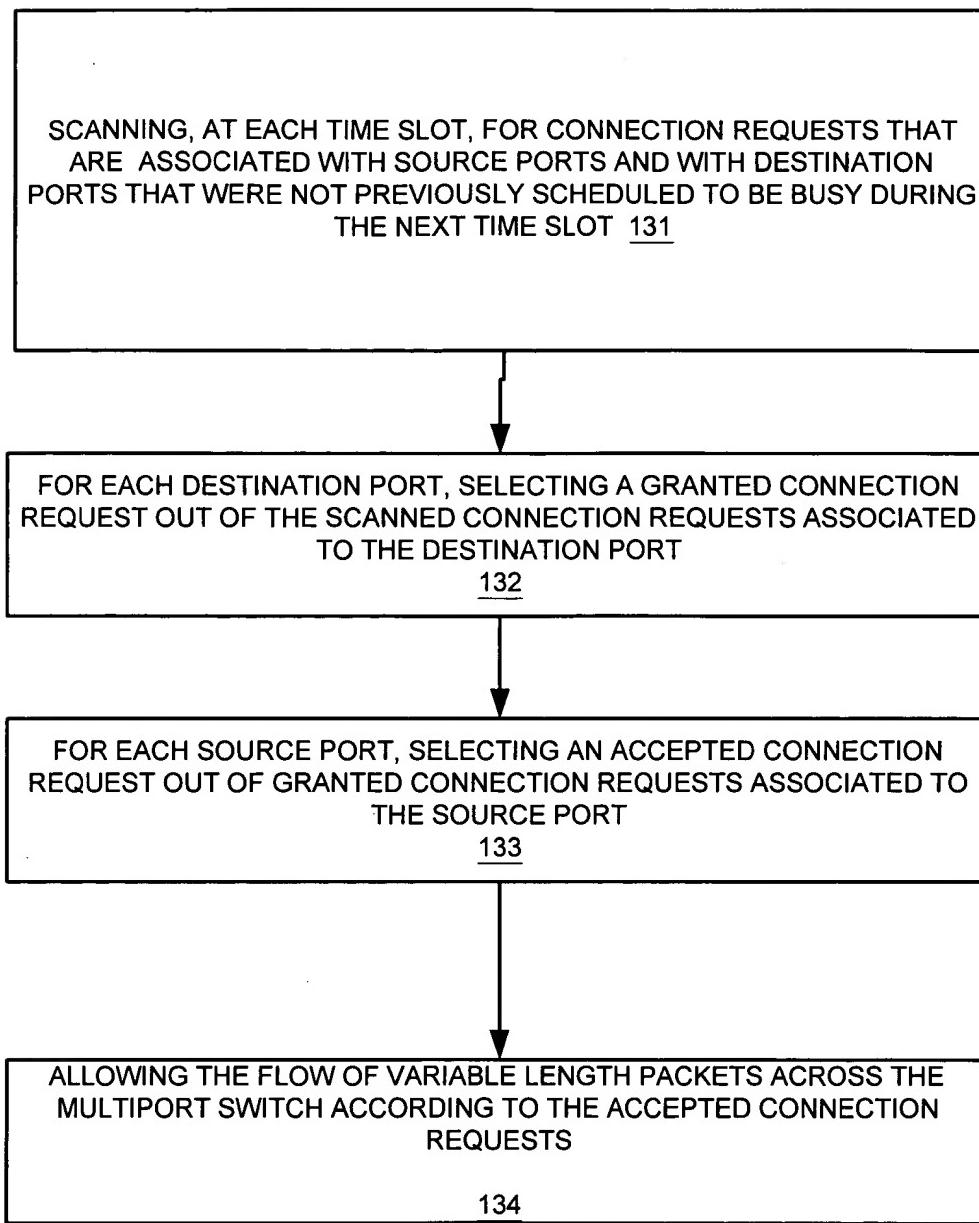
110

FIG. 3



120

FIG. 4



130

**FIG. 5**

SCANNING, AT EACH TIME SLOT, A CONTENT OF INPUT QUEUES WITHIN INPUT PORTS AND GENERATING FLOW REQUESTS FOR ALLOWING VARIABLE LENGTH PACKETS TO FROM INPUT PORTS TO OUTPUT PORTS, BOTH PORTS WERE NOT PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED TO BE BUSY DURING THE NEXT TIME SLOT 141



COMPARING FLOW REQUESTS AND SELECTING SELECTED FLOW REQUESTS TO BE SERVICED DURING THE NEXT TIME SLOT 142



UPDATING THE CONFIGURATION OF THE CONFIGURABLE MULTIPORT SWITCH FOR ALLOWING TO SERVICE THE SELECTED FLOW REQUESTS 144

140

FIG. 6